HUMAN EVENTS

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State of the Union: So — the Administration has "foxed" the Democratic opposition by turning farther "Left" than the Party originally identified with the Welfare State. And the conservatives of the GOP are assigned a lonely corner of isolation denominated "the Right." Thus, at least, pundits describe the political situation since the President's State of the Union speech.

There's something wrong, not only with this picture, but also with the way it's painted. One commentator, borrowing from automobile terminology, directs his wisecrack to the Democrats — "Pass only on the Left": in short, the opposition to win must go farther "Left" and the Administration to finally survive must make more extreme its own policy, etc. *Reductio ad absurdum.* For the country at the polls obviously never gave any such mandate.

Also, how come we've appropriated our political traffic signs from Europe? In the Chamber of Deputies, in Paris, the far Left on the floor is indeed revolutionary, "Down with the Republic, Up the Soviets!" And on the far Right are the monarchists still scorning the representative form of government. But never has this kind of chart held good for the floors of the American Senate and House, where most of both Democratic and Republican members are strongly committed to the Old Republic.

Hence, there's a fallacy in all this pother about Right and Left. Instead of importing our symbols from socialistic Europe, instead of engaging in a leap-frogging race to what is called the Left, in place of an obscene competition to buy votes presumed to be for sale, there must be some prescription of a more respectable and ethical nature. There must be some higher civil law than "go Left."

Isn't it at least logical — in this time of world-wide danger — to be "for America?" Indeed, as if in response to this question, several score of the Senators of both parties, in the past week, forsaking the little game of Right and Left, came out strongly for the U.S.A. Whatever their varying motivations may have been, they demanded ventilation of our greatest current scandal, the Peress case [see below]. Elimination of treason — particularly in the Army — is the *sine qua non* of national survival. And reassertion of the duty of the Legislature to see that the Executive performs its duty is the most gallant course (whether you call it "to the Right" or "to the Left") that men of Government can take today.

Correcting the Record: When Senator McCarthy a year ago sought to perform his constitutional duty to probe the Department of the Army, the officials of that branch blocked his way — and the ensuing scrimmage came to an end only with the Senate "condemnation" of the Wisconsin legislator. To an end? Not quite.

For, last week, some 50 Senators of both parties, led by Senator Daniel (Dem., Texas), demanded the truth about the promotion and discharge of Major Peress, whom McCarthy called a "Fifth Amendment Communist." Directly following the demand of this group, the Department of the Army went into belated action, with a 10,000-word explanation. The latter boiled down to the revelation that it was Mr. John G. Adams (highlighted with Secretary Stevens in last year's circus) who, together with a General Weible, decided upon the honorable discharge of Peress.

Senator Francis Case of South Dakota (who refused to censure McCarthy for action related to the Peress affair) now confirms what he had charged some time ago, that "the Army had weighed the request of a Senate Committee Chairman against that of a suspected subversive and decided in favor of the latter." Most observers in the Capital are now agreed upon the responsibility of John G. Adams, civilian Counsellor of the Army Department — which is what McCarthy claimed from the earliest days of the famous affair. Senator McClellan (Dem., Ark.) who succeeds McCarthy as Chairman of the

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Government Operations Committee shows every disposition to get to the bottom of this and related matters. It is believed he cannot fail to probe not only the Peress affair but also the whole situation of security in the Department of the Army, in general, and — in particular — in the civilian personnel of that branch which, this column reported last spring, has been under grave suspicion for some years.

But legislators cannot blink the highly disagreeable constitutional problem highlighted by the Army admissions. David Lawrence, dean of journalists in the Capital, recently discussed the action of Adams in giving an honorable discharge to Peress despite the Senate Committee's request to the contrary. Concerning this, Lawrence said in his column, January 10: "This was an action 'contemptuous' of the Senate. It is perhaps the most flagrant case of disregard of a legislative committee by an executive official that has been recorded in a long time. One wonders what the Senate will do now to 'vindicate its honor'."

Another aspect of the barrage of organized hostile propaganda which engulfed McCarthy also drew official debunking in the past few days. The Senate Rules Subcommittee (headed by Senator Jenner), which has been thoroughly investigating alleged abuses in committee probes for some time, said: "No case has been made out that one-man hearings are by their very nature productive of unfairness or abuse." It added, "Thousands of one-man hearings have been conducted in the Senate, and to ban them would impede investigations." This Subcommittee rejected most of the recent proposals to give greater protection to the rights of witnesses before investigative committees and recommended only several changes in rules, some of which are already standard practice in most probe groups. This official pronouncement on one-man hearings comes as a solace to many Capital observers who knew to what extreme lengths the anti-McCarthy fanatics had carried the matter. For it is well known here that, because of the multiplicity of committees and subcommittees, no member of Congress has sufficient time to attend all of them to which he has been assigned. Indeed, one of the critics of "one-man" hearings — Senator Ferguson — was confounded to learn that during a two-year period, he had conducted 102 one-man sessions himself.

Not Merely Gossip: "I am *not* a moderate progressive"— Senator William E. Jenner (Rep., Indiana) in a speech in San Diego, California, on December 29, 1954.

● Whenever — over highballs — a Southern Senator alludes, with evident pain, to the discontent in his state with the Supreme Court's ban on segregation in the schools, a Northern conservative GOP Senator now replies: "I want to remind you that the Court which delivered this verdict is composed of 6 Democrats and 2 Republicans. It was your Democratic Presidents — Roosevelt and Truman — who appointed this majority. Furthermore, in the Twenties — I want to remind you — when the conservative Republicans had a majority in Congress, we never passed any so-called civil rights laws offensive to the majority of Southerners. All of these troubles which you complain about were promoted by Democratic Presidents whom you and your colleagues supported."

● GOP Senator Bill Knowland is taking a pretty firm line of independence of the White House. The town is talking about his answer — on a TV program the other night — to a question concerning a movement to draft Ike for President in 1956. He said, "The Republican Party wants no reluctant candidate," with characteristic bluntness.

Now Bill Knowland is saying to colleagues in the Republican cloakroom: "We have got to stop saying, 'Republican right-wingers,' or 'the Taft Republicans,' or 'the Republican Left.' In the Republican Party there are only two classifications, 'Republicans' and 'New Dealers'."

Knowland — as we reported last week — won a big victory over the White House gang, led by Sherman Adams and Max Rabb. He defeated their efforts to oust him and his friends as leaders of the Party in the upper house by 40 to 7. Even Senator Saltonstall, the eternal wobbler, would not go along with the White House liberals.

● Many eyebrows are raised at the latest Democratic step towards a conservative party policy — the dropping of any FEPC proposals during this session of Congress. The fact that "liberal" Senator Lehman gave this astonishing departure from New Deal policy his blessing is regarded as evidence of the Democratic determination to close ranks and conciliate the Southerners in preparation for 1956.

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U.S. Aid to Italy: In computing aid to Italy since the end of the war, two adjustments are necessary: (a) the war in Italy ended in early 1945 and consequently the period of U.S. aid to Italy is longer by some five or six months than in the case of England and France; (b) aid to Italy includes aid to Trieste which Italy claims as Italian territory.

Since the end of the war in Italy, the United States' total economic assistance to Italy amounts to $2,922,875,000, which is broken down into:

$ 413,115,000	— U.S. Army civilian supplies;
3,183,000	— American Red Cross aid which in the case of Italy was appropriated by Congress and handed over to the Red Cross for disbursement as it saw fit;
416,769,000	— UNRRA aid and an additional $128,461,000 of post-UNRRA aid;
134,487,000	— U.S. Treasury for civilian supplies;
176,006,000	— interim U.S. Government aid;
1,629,600,000	— ECA, MSA and FOA;
18,500,000	— sale of surplus agricultural commodities;
2,754,000	— Technical Exchange Program.

As of June 30, 1954, Italy had outstanding in loans and credits from the U.S. (various government agencies) $299,619,000, consisting of:

$ 138,862,000	— American Export-Import Bank;
2,482,000	— basic materials development;
121,879,000	— sale of surplus U.S. property;
36,396,000	— sale of U.S. merchant ships.

Although exact figures are available for total military aid to England and France since the end of World War II, it is curious that only a part of our military aid to Italy is revealed. The rest is marked "classified." For "off-shore procurement," we are informed Italy received $490,000,000 — but how many hundreds of millions more is a secret. This secrecy ban also blocks any estimate of how much the U.S. has contributed to the infra-NATO structure.

Thus, total economic aid to Italy, and that part of U.S. military aid which is not classified, amounts to a grand total of $3,712,494,000.

Between Covers: J. B. Matthews, courageous writer and expert documenter of the Red Network, is rumored to have compiled a sizzling dossier on Communist connections of members of Congress and their staffs. It is a commonplace on Capitol Hill that some members — who seem impeccably clean of Communist taint to their faraway constituencies — have writing and research assistants who could, on the record, fail to pass a loyalty test. Sooner or later, the allegedly impeccable Senator or Representative is found mouthing the famous C.P. line. Matthews is said to have embodied his findings in an article scheduled for early publication in the *American Mercury*.

● The State Department shows embarrassment over an article in a recent issue of *MacLean's* magazine, prominent Canadian periodical (481 University Ave., Toronto 2, Canada). It is entitled, "I'm Leaving Canada and . . .", by Frank A. Tinker, for two years U.S. Vice-Consul in Toronto, now resigned. Mr. Tinker exposes the various symptoms of anti-U.S. feeling in our neighbor and ventilates some too-long-concealed frictions which have for some years aroused U.S. citizens visiting or residing north of the border.

Federal Aid to Education: Is the spigot of Federal spending about to be turned on to first subsidize and eventually control the educational systems of the States? One part of Eisenhower's State of the Union message has thoroughly alarmed prominent educators who so far have been able to hold the line against Federal aid to education. Referring to an "unprecedented [national] classroom shortage" the President emphatically declared that "affirmative action must be taken now."

Apparently the President has swallowed whole the report of the U.S. Office of Education published in December, 1953. The report stated that during the last school year the Office estimated — on the basis of data received from 43 States—that $7,408,267,989 was needed to furnish necessary classrooms and related

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facilities. The report concluded that approximately *twenty eight billions* would be needed for the next five years. The intimation was clear that Federal help would be inescapable.

Following this report, Congressman Ralph Gwinn (R., N.Y.) heading a House subcommittee on federal activities in education began to look into the matter. Hearings brought out what might be called the New York State story. In 1948 the New York State Commissioner of Education directed that a survey be made of public school buildings and deferred school needs. This survey found that for the following eight years (ending 1956) $1,338,455,788 would be needed to take care of construction and deferred repairs in schools of New York. The survey at first shocked the Educational Commissioner of the State and also the citizens. But fortunately the Commissioner decided to test the conclusions of the survey and to explore resources available locally for meeting school needs in the State. On re-examination of the original survey it was discovered that *nearly two thirds* of the reasons reported for new school projects were *entirely unrelated to enrollment requirements.* Off-season spirit of Santa Claus was unmistakably abroad among those asked to estimate actual school needs in the State.

Then another State Committee at the request of the Governor and the Educational Commissioner was directed to find out just what was the score on school districts unable to finance their local needs. This Committee found that out of a total of 4000 school districts only 18 were "hardship cases" and in 1950 the Legislature, on the recommendation of the Committee, made provision for taking care of such cases. From the beginning of this program in 1950 through 1954, only 20 school districts in the State qualified for emergency advances and these received only $1,023,469 and are already paying it back. The final step was taken by the State Legislature which re-examined the taxes on real property in the State and found that the taxable valuation had not been adjusted for years. Today local school districts have found new sources of income ample to take care of their future needs through the State revaluation of real property. The result is that New York was one of three States to refuse any aid whatsoever from the Federal government for its schools.

Those testifying before the Gwinn Committee expressed the opinion that much of the information utilized by the U.S. Office of Education in estimating the needs of State schools for the next five years ($28 billions) was *unrelated* to the basic problem of housing increased enrollment — that the Federal agency was accepting the same kind of survey that the Educational Commissioner of New York *had insisted on re-examining with a result that its unsoundness was quickly exposed.*

One of the witnesses pointed out, by a reference to another State (New Mexico), just how careless (or designing) State Education departments can be in estimating school needs. According to a leading paper in the State the Department asserted that as of March, 1951 school construction needs "amounted to over 58 million dollars with applicable resources of only $7.2 million to meet this need." The paper pointed out that "during the three and three quarter years since the report of the State Education Department was made the State of New Mexico had actually expended $27,670,000 for school construction . . . ."

Moral of our story: Commissioners of Education whether State or Federal may have the same weakness as any other politician when it comes to promoting public spending.

Democracy At Work: One day about a year ago, Robert LeFevre, then a television news-editor in Fort Lauderdale, Florida (now associate editor of the Colorado Springs, Col. *Gazette-Telegraph*) picked up the Girl Scout Handbook. Reading it through, he was continuously amazed. Among other things, the Handbook stated that the UN's Declaration of Human Rights is a document much like the Bill of Rights in the American Constitution; it embodies rights that everyone in the world should have.

The truth is that the UN Declaration of Human Rights follows the outline of the Russian constitution and is diametrically opposed to the U.S. Bill of Rights. LeFevre indignantly wrote an article calling attention to the many politically-slanted statements in the Handbook.

HUMAN EVENTS printed the LeFevre essay, never dreaming of the explosion that would be set off. Orders by the thousands came for reprints. Parents of Girl Scouts all over America sat down and read the Handbook and they found LeFevre's assertions to be accurate. Protests swamped Girl Scout headquarters. After some controversy, the objectionable phraseology was eliminated.

Naturally, One-World professors and columnists have been outraged by this demonstration that the spirit of patriotism still exists in America. (They have written many resentful newspaper articles calling these spontaneous unorganized protests evidence of "right-wing terrorism," "thought control," "intimidation" and what not.) The fact remains that "Democracy in Action" is a technique that can and should be exercised by the readers of HUMAN EVENTS. Its use should not be restricted to the readers of the *Nation*, the *CIO News* and the *Daily Worker* — who think they should be allowed a monopoly of the right of protest and petition.

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WHAT WILL PUSHBUTTON INDUSTRY (AUTOMATION) DO TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

By JAMES L. WICK

Summary

In automated factories, one person, pressing a row of buttons, will direct the complete operation of a machine costing often as much as several million dollars. *The electric bill for that operation will be much higher than the wage bill. In deciding where to locate automatic factories, the power rate rather than the wage rate will often be the decisive factor.* The valley authority regions like TVA — with low power rates subsidized by the taxpayers of all of the 48 states — may become the nation's fastest growing industrial regions. Other factors being equal, industries with a high degree of electrified operation will tend to schedule their new plant construction in the valley authority regions rather than in your community.

— — —

Automation is a way of doing things automatically — by motors, conveyers, push-buttons, by punch cards, by transistors, by electronics. Mechanisms will take over more and more sectors of manufacturing; entire factories will be automatic.

In factories now being blueprinted, electronic systems will pick up the raw materials, allocate them in the correct proportions, send them through the processing machinery, sort out the final products and automatically package them. The climax will be reached when the packaged product keeps moving right out the factory door and is mechanically placed in its proper location in a freight car or truck.

As a result of automation the standard of living will climb phenomenally, as it always has after inventions enabling one person to do the work of two, twenty or a hundred. Output will zoom and prices of goods produced by automation will fall. Wages will move sharply upward and hours of labor will be shortened. A smaller proportion of workers will be employed in production and a higher proportion in the white-collar occupations and in the distributive and leisure-satisfying industries. There will be a far wider range of choice in the art of living.

Progress in automation will vary from industry to industry. In some, the process may be completed in 10 years; in others, it may take 25 years. The transition period — the next two or three decades — will boom the machine-tool industries and their supplier industries. When automation becomes economically feasible in an industry, it will come in a rush; laggard companies will fall by the wayside.

As automation* grows, the affected industries will become increasingly concerned

*By its nature, this article is concerned exclusively with industries where automation is practical. There are many industries (like the garment trades, for example) where mechanized operation, though it will increase, will hardly do so to the extent that the power bill could approach the wage bill in size.

Even with automatic factories, the power bill will not invariably be the principal location determinant. Counter-considerations will be such factors as (1) nearness to the sources of supply or to a major market or to a vital element like industrial water; (2) the supply of labor of special skills; (3) the preference of owners or executives for certain communities.

But one oft-overlooked reason why an automated factory is more valuable to a community than would be suggested by the usually diminutive size of its labor force is its enormous local tax payments. I know of a city of 12,000 which had an assessed valuation of 25 million dollars when a highly mechanized plant came to town. It employed only 30 persons, but its tax assessment was 25 million dollars!

After its arrival, tax rates were reduced 10 percent, but the city and school district still had an 80 percent increase in income. They used the additional revenue for whopping big raises in the salaries of teachers, after which they still had enough left for new schools and an enlarged recreation program and other community facilities.

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with the cost and availability of electric power. The power industry now has 100 million KW of installed capacity. The industry's Power Survey Committee has forecast a U.S. power requirement by 1975 of 423 million KW — four times the present supply.

Before making multi-million dollar investments in automatic factories, industrialists must find out whether they can be assured of an adequate supply of kilowatts.

They face no problem in regions served by private power companies which have doubled their capacity every decade and can continue to anticipate all predictable requirements if they are not subjected to the fear of nationalization.

But they run into a big question mark when they consider the TVA (and other valley authority) regions. At present, Congress must appropriate the money for each new steam plant needed.

On account of the attraction of low power rates in the subsidized regions, demand for power continuously threatens to outrun supply. Many industries which would like to move there are hesitant since some of the congressmen from the outside areas, awakening at last to the facts of life, are becoming increasingly reluctant to vote funds for steam plant expansion.

TVA supporters have started a drive to pass a law giving the Tennessee Valley Authority the right to issue its own bonds, but Congress has learned the hard way that ambitious, empire-building administrators — egged on by socialist-minded fanatics — will find ways to circumvent all legal limitations. They will use their funds and their power in ways never dreamed of by the Congress which gave them the authorization.

Nevertheless, if Stevenson or Kefauver should win the Presidency in 1956, one of their goals will be to give financial autonomy (bond-issuing power) to TVA.

Then TVA can promise an unlimited supply of subsidized power to industrial prospects.

TVA can sell power for lower rates than most private electric companies because it escapes all or part of the two biggest elements of power costs: (1) taxes and (2) cost of money (interest, dividends). Wages are a minor cost in the generation of power.

Taxes and interest together absorbed nearly 50% of the entire electrical revenue of private companies in 1952.

Private companies pay 52 percent of their profits in corporation income taxes to Uncle Sam. Where there are state income taxes (usually 4 to 6 percent) they must pay them, too. They also pay county and local taxes. Their total taxes amount to 1¼ billion dollars, 23 percent of revenue. TVA pays no corporate income tax, federal or state, and makes only a small contribution to local communities in lieu of taxes.

For interest alone, private power companies paid one billion dollars, 19 percent of revenue. TVA does not pay interest except on serial bonds held by the Treasury; they totaled $29 million on June 30, 1954. The rate was most recently established at 2% and has varied from ½% to 2%. In fiscal 1954, TVA paid $669,000 in interest on the bonds while investment in completed power plant on that date totaled $1,109 million and another $200 million of power plant was under construction. TVA's interest payment on its power investment was less than 1/10 of 1%!

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Private companies must pay dividends to the people who put up the equity capital. TVA pays no return at all to the people of the 48 states who financed this attractive industrial area competing for new industries.

TVA has another great advantage. The Authority has spent $730 million on 19 multiple-purpose dams for navigation, flood control and power. The proportion allocated to power has a direct relationship to power rates. Present allocation is 27% navigation, 31% flood control, 42% power. The New Deal Administrations, for political advantage, have doctored the allocations to minimize the charge against power.

For all these reasons, TVA power rates are substantially lower than those charged by private utilities. The consequence is an amazingly rapid industrialization of the area.

Between 1929 and 1952, sixteen hundred new manufacturing and processing plants were built! The number of workers employed in industry increased by 72 percent. The area's per capita income and its proportion of individual income taxes have risen much faster than those of the nation as a whole.

The TVA region, because of its subsidized power rates, captured much of the nation's atomic energy production and now has good reason to gain the most from automation.

Some TVA residents have no hesitation in admitting the source of this growth. A leading Tennessee business executive answers queries about TVA as follows:

> "I will answer your letter in the same way that I have answered similar letters from friends all over the U.S.A.
>
> "Your first question is: has TVA been good for the Tennessee Valley?
>
> "Answer: it certainly has. TVA has cost a billion and a half dollars, but the people in the Valley didn't put it up, even though they were the ones benefited. It was paid by the taxpayers of all of the 48 states for the benefit of the people of 2½ percent of the area of the United States. Why shouldn't we be helped by the spending here of a billion and a half of your dollars?
>
> "Your second question is: would we encourage you to ask Congress for the same deal? Answer: we would not! If you subsidize me, you're a fool, but I'm ahead. If after receiving your subsidy, I turn around and subsidize you, then I am the bigger fool because we both lose. Have I made myself clear?"

Thousands of people, including myself, curious about economic experiments, have made study tours of the TVA region. One startling impression is the type of factory moving into the Valley. In almost any major community, one is likely to see a beautiful new factory building and then be told:

> "That factory cost 30 million dollars; it will have only 30 employees; but they will all be highly skilled and well-paid. That's the kind of industries we're getting and we like them."

Few, if any, "runaway" industries* are moving into the TVA region. Such industries are moving South, but their destination is NOT the Tennessee Valley — if their owners have any foresight. The day may not be far away when wage rates in the TVA region will be the nation's highest — and soundly so, since that region will contain the largest percentage of push-button workers managing the most "horsepower" per capita.

*"Runaway" industries is a term used to describe companies running away from high-wage areas, usually in the North. They make goods in which wages are the all-important cost and the work can be done by cheap and unskilled labor, often by women. Dressmaking plants are the best-known examples.

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When TVA was established in 1933, it was offered as a flood control, navigation and area development program, with only small amounts of by-product power. Few suspected that TVA would soon be demanding steam plants and would monopolize the production and distribution of power in an area twice as large as originally established.

The new direction of TVA development, however, became apparent within a half-dozen years. By 1939, Congress was authorizing the issuance of government bonds to buy out the existing electric companies of the area. The companies, Wendell Willkie's, valued their properties at $79 million. TVA valued them at $70 million. However, TVA's chief power engineer testified that the Board of Directors was willing to pay the additional $9 million "to wipe out the nuisance of competition."

Well, the competition is gone and long ago the TVA Chairman reported that the water development was essentially finished. Today more than half of TVA's power is steam power. When the present construction program is completed, it will be 70% steam.

Here's a picture of a creature of the federal government which has wandered far astray from the goals set by Congress. Now industry is migrating to the cheap power area and you and Congress face this problem: How can you keep your best industries in your locality?

The immediate solution: Congress must swerve TVA back to its original purposes by refusing further funds for steam plants and by placing new power supply responsibilities on the people and industries of the area. In addition, the Authority must be required to pay its full costs, a move recommended by the accounting agency of Congress, the General Accounting Office.

The long-term solution: the federal government should get completely out of the power business since it must either nationalize all of the nation's power or favor the nationalized regions at the expense of other regions.

James L. Wick is co-publisher of the Niles, Ohio *Daily Times.*

What can YOU do about the TVA threat to *the industrial growth of YOUR community?*

Answer: Tell your people the truth and the whole truth about TVA — and what will happen to your community if YOUR subsidization of competitive industrial areas is not stopped.

Send copies of this article to the opinion-moulding groups in your community. Begin with your teachers (probably TVA-minded) who may be shocked into reality by the prospective loss of one or two of the biggest tax-paying units in your community. Tell this story to trade-union leaders in hopes they will protest the flood of pro-TVA propaganda emanating from CIO headquarters.

Give copies of this article to the leaders of your women's organizations; still better, send a copy to each member. New Dealers have been masterful in their manipulation of women's groups. Many is the time that women club members have, by a unanimous vote, approved socialistic measures to which their husbands, almost without exception, were opposed.

If your local newspaper is running a continuous stream of pro-TVA propaganda written by its New Deal columnists, ask the publisher to print something on the other side — just once in a while.

Write your Congressman and the two Senators from your state. Get together a delegation to call upon them and present your view.

Urge neighboring communities to get into the fight.

There is still time, but there isn't much time.

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